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length of the housing 36, and is wide enough to fully seat the detent assembly 38. The detent assembly 38 comprises a detent spring 46 and a detent pin 44. When the housing 36 is installed on the heater assembly 12, the detent pin 44 is aligned and communicates with the locating hole 30. This alignment automatically occurs when the key 42 engages the slot 24 of the heater assembly 12. The detent spring 46 is made from a sheet material that exhibits spring like characteristics that can withstand the high temperatures of the molding process. In the preferred embodiment the detent spring 46 is made from type 301 stainless steel. As the connector sleeve assembly 18 is slid down the heater assembly 12, the detent pin 44 is sized to engage the locating hole 30 and effectively locks the connector sleeve assembly 18 onto the heater assembly 12 in the proper location and insures the alignment and communication of electrical current through the spring contacts 40 and the contact pads 52.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 2, 3, 13, 14, 22 and 28 as follows:

1. (amended) ~~A thick-film electric heater, comprising:~~

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- a) a thermally conductive non-flat substrate surface;
 - b) a silk-screened dielectric layer applied on said substrate surface;
 - c) a resistive layer applied on said dielectric layer thereby forming a circuit for the generation of heat;
 - d) at least a pair of silk-screened contact pads applied in electrical communication with said resistive layer for electrical connection to a power source; and
 - e) an insulation layer applied over said resistive layer.

2. (amended) The heater of claim 1, further comprising a connector housing for connection of a contact to each of said contact pads.

3. (amended) The heater of claim 1, where said non-flat surface is cylindrical.

10. (amended) The heater of claim 2, where said connector housing further comprises a locking detent that engages a locating hole on said substrate.

13. (amended) The heater of claim 2, where said connector housing further comprises a key for slidably engaging a longitudinal slot in said substrate, thereby aligning radially said contacts with said contact pads.

14. (amended) The heater of claim 2, where said connector housing is made from a ceramic material.

22. (amended) The heater of claim 2, where said contact is made from gold plated steel.

~~28. (amended) An injection mold runner nozzle having a co-axially disposed cylindrical heater comprising:~~

- ~~a) a cylindrical, thermally conductive substrate having a smaller coefficient of thermal expansion than that of said nozzle, thereby causing said substrate to clamp onto said nozzle as said nozzle and said substrate heat up;~~
- ~~b) a silk-screened dielectric layer applied on said substrate;~~
- ~~c) a resistive layer applied on said dielectric layer thereby forming an electrical circuit for heat generation;~~
- ~~d) at least a pair of silk-screened contact pads applied in electrical communication with said resistive layer for electrical connection to a power source; and~~
- ~~e) an insulation layer applied over said resistive layer.~~

Please add new claim 29 as follows:

29. The nozzle of claim 28, wherein the heater further comprises an annular connector housing that slidably engages said substrate for mechanical connection of a contact to each said contact pads.